

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) A composition having a disperse system, which comprises a matrix comprising a water-soluble auxiliary component (C) comprising at least an oligosaccharide (C1), and

a particulate dispersed phase comprising a meltable organic solid component (A) and a coloring agent (B), and being dispersed in the matrix,

wherein the organic solid component (A) is a polymer component.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the coloring agent (B) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of an oil-soluble dye and an organic or an inorganic pigment.

4. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the average particle size of the dispersed phase is 0.1 to 100 μm , and the average particle size of the coloring agent (B) is not more than 50% of the average particle size of the dispersed phase.

5. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the dispersed phase is a spherical dispersed phase having a coefficient of variation of an average particle size of not more than 60 and a length ratio of a major axis relative to a minor axis of 1.5/1 to 1/1.

6. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of the coloring agent (B) is 0.001 to 100 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the organic solid component (A).

7. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) comprises at least a tetrasaccharide.

8. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a starch sugar, a galactooligosaccharide, a coupling sugar, a fructooligosaccharide, a xylooligosaccharide, a soybean oligosaccharide, a chitin oligosaccharide and a chitosan oligosaccharide.

9. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) has a viscosity of not lower than 1 Pa·s when a 50% by weight aqueous solution of the oligosaccharide is measured at a temperature of 25°C by a B-type viscometer.

10. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the auxiliary component (C) comprises the oligosaccharide (C1) and a water-soluble plasticizing component (C2) for plasticizing the oligosaccharide (C1).

11. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 10, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) shows a melting point or softening point or is decomposed at a temperature higher than a heat distortion temperature of the organic solid component (A), and the melting point or softening point of the plasticizing component (C2) is not higher than the heat distortion temperature of the organic solid component (A).

12. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 10, wherein the plasticizing component (C2) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a saccharide and a sugar alcohol.

13. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 12, wherein the sugar alcohol comprises at least one member selected from the group of erythritol, pentaerythritol, arabitol, ribitol, xylitol, sorbitol, dulcitol and mannitol.

14. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 10, wherein the ratio (weight ratio) of the oligosaccharide (C1) relative to the plasticizing component (C2) is 99/1 to 50/50.

15. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the ratio (weight ratio) of the organic solid component (A) relative to the auxiliary component (C) is 55/45 to 1/99.

16. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a particle comprising an organic solid component (A) and a coloring agent (B), which comprises eluting an-a water soluble auxiliary component (C) from a composition recited in claim 1.having a disperse system which comprises a matrix comprising the water-soluble auxiliary component (C) comprising at least an oligosaccharide (C1), and
a particulate dispersed phase comprising the organic solid component (A) and the coloring agent (B), and being dispersed in the matrix,
wherein the organic solid component (A) is a polymer component, and
wherein the composition is obtained by melt-kneading the organic solid component (A), the coloring agent (B) and the water-soluble auxiliary component (C).

17. (Withdrawn) A particle obtainable by a process recited in claim 16.

18. (Canceled)

19. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein the coloring agent (B) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of an oil-soluble dye and an organic or an inorganic pigment.

20. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein the average particle size of the dispersed phase is 0.1 to 100 μm , and the average particle size of the coloring agent (B) is not more than 50% of the average particle size of the dispersed phase.

21. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein the particle is spherical and has an average particle size of 0.1 to 100 μm , a coefficient of variation of the average particle size of not more than 60, and a length ratio of a major axis relative to a minor axis of 1.5/1 to 1/1.
22. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein the proportion of the coloring agent (B) is 0.001 to 100 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the organic solid component (A).
23. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) comprises at least a tetrasaccharide.
24. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a starch sugar, a galactooligosaccharide, a coupling sugar, a fructooligosaccharide, a xylooligosaccharide, a soybean oligosaccharide, a chitin oligosaccharide and a chitosan oligosaccharide.
25. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) has a viscosity of not lower than 1 Pa·s when a 50% by weight aqueous solution of the oligosaccharide is measured at a temperature of 25°C by a B-type viscometer.
26. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein the auxiliary component (C) comprises the oligosaccharide (C1) and a water-soluble plasticizing component (C2) for plasticizing the oligosaccharide (C1).
27. (New) A process according to claim 26, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) shows a melting point or softening point or is decomposed at a temperature higher than a heat distortion temperature of the organic solid component (A), and the melting point or softening point of the plasticizing component (C2) is not higher than the heat distortion temperature of the organic solid component (A).

28. (New) A process according to claim 26, wherein the plasticizing component (C2) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a saccharide and a sugar alcohol.

29. (New) A process according to claim 28, wherein the sugar alcohol comprises at least one member selected from the group of erythritol, pentaerythritol, arabitol, ribitol, xylitol, sorbitol, dulcitol and mannitol.

30. (New) A process according to claim 26, wherein the ratio (weight ratio) of the oligosaccharide (C1) relative to the plasticizing component (C2) is 99/1 to 50/50.

31. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein the ratio (weight ratio) of the organic solid component (A) relative to the auxiliary component (C) is 55/45 to 1/99.